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Note by the Secretary-General

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* Reports submitted by non-governmental organizations are issued without formal editing.

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1. International Federation of Business and Professional Women

(General; 1947)

International Federation of Business and Professional Women (BPW International) was founded in 1930 to bring together women in the paid workforce in business and the professions world-wide to work for equal opportunity in economic, civil and political life. It aims to develop professional and leadership potential for women at all levels. BPW International has over 100 affiliates in 80 countries on all five continents.

I. Participation in the work of the United Nations Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and major United Nations conferences

I.1 United Nations Economic and Social Council: BPW International attended substantive Sessions of the Economic and Social Council in Geneva on 28 July-15 August 2003 and 7-25 August 2006.

I.2 United Nations Office — New York: BPW International has attended the Commission on the Status of Women (CSW) in New York annually. BPW International, International Council of Women, International Federation of University Women, Soroptimist International and Zonta International (Project 5-O) typically work together. *For CSW 47th Session*, 3-14 March 2003, Project 5-O submitted a statement on Violence Against Women and oral statement on Women and Media/Information and Communication Technology (ICT); co-organized workshops: *Good Practices to Handle High Priority in Violence against Women*, 4 March 2003 and *Equal Access to Knowledge for Women through Information and Communication Technologies and Media*, 6 March 2003. BPW International Vice President was a keynote speaker at NGO Consultation on 1 March 2003 on *Women and ICT*. *For CSW 48th Session*, 1-12 March 2004, Project 5-O submitted statement on Women and Armed Conflicts and oral statement on *the role of men and boys in achieving gender equality* and co-organized *Women Enabling Peace Process: Opportunities and Partnerships to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325* workshop, 1 March 2004. BPW International organized *Women for Peace* workshop, 2 March 2004. *For CSW 49th Session*, 28 February-11 March 2005, Project 5-O submitted statement on Implementation Review of Beijing Platform for Action and presented oral statement on strategies for the advancement of women and girls. BPW International organized *Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back* workshop, 1 March 2005. *For CSW 50th Session* on 27 February-10 March 2006, BPW International organized *Return on Investment When More Women Become Executives* workshop, 28 February 2006. During 2003-2006, BPW representatives served as co-chair of NGO Planning Committee for NGO/CSW Consultation Day and other CSW events; member of executive committee of NGO Committee on Status of Women and NGO Committee on United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), and involved in consultation activities during 2 weeks review of the Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.

I.3 United Nations Office — Vienna: BPW Representatives were members of NGO Committees on Peace, on Narcotic Drugs, on Development, on UNIFEM, on Human Rights, on Family and on Status of Women; attended meetings monthly; and

helped develop Joint Statements to United Nations meetings. BPW International co-signed joint statements on Women Trafficking and Women and Poverty for CSW 49th Session, March 2005; Joint Statement for the 11th ministerial meeting of United Nations Conference on Trade and Development in Sao Paolo, 13-18 June 2004, and many more.

I.4 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime: BPW International attended in Vienna: (a) Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice, 12th session, 13-22 May 2003, 13th Session, 11-20 May 2004; (b) Commission on Narcotic Drugs 46th session, 16-17 April 2003, 47th Session, 16-25 March 2004; (c) Conference of Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime 1st session, 28 June-July 2004 and 2nd Session, 10-21 October 2005.

I.5 International Labour Organization (ILO): BPW International attended in Geneva (a) ILO Conferences 91st Session, 3-19 June 2003; 92nd Session, 1-17 June 2004; 93rd Session, 31 May-16 June 2005; and 94th Session, 7-23 February 2006; (b) *Meeting of Experts on Violence and Stress at Work*, 8-15 October 2003; (c) *Tripartite Meeting on Future of Work and Quality in the Information Society*, 18-22 October 2004.

I.6 United Nations World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS): BPW members attended WSIS Phase I in Geneva, 9-12 December 2003, and Phase II in Tunis, 16-18 November 2005, and lobbied for gender-sensitive ICT indicators.

I.7 United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD): BPW International attended in Geneva: *Preparatory committee for UNCTAD IX. Hearing with Civil Society and Private Sector*, 22 April 2004; *Trade and Development Board 35th Executive Session*, 21 September 2004 and *53rd session*, 27 September-10 October 2006; *Expert Meeting on Promoting Export Competitiveness of Small and Medium Enterprises*, 9-10 December 2004; *9th Session of Commission on Trade in Goods and Services and Commodities*, 15 March 2005; *Commission on Investment, Technology and Related Financial Issues 10th Session*, 6-10 March 2006.

I.8 World Health Organization (WHO): BPW International submitted 2002-2004 report for WHO in 2004. During 2003-2006, BPW International attended WHO Executive Board meetings in Geneva each January (co-signed statements on Reproductive health and on Health Systems for the 113th session, 19-23 January 2004); *56th-59th World Health General Assembly* each May, *57th Regional WHO meeting in Western Pacific* in Auckland, New Zealand, 18-22 September 2006 (submitted statement on gender discrimination and disadvantages relating to HIV/AIDS).

I.9 United Nations Economic and Social Commission on Asia-Pacific (UNESCAP): BPW International attended in Bangkok *59th Commission Session of the UNESCAP* Meetings in Bangkok, 21-24 April 2003; *UNESCAP Beijing+10 Review*, 7-10 September 2004. BPW International, UNESCAP and Asia-Pacific Women's Information Network Center (APWINC) co-organized in Bangkok: *e-Business and Opportunities for Women in Asia-Pacific* seminar, 28-30 March 2005, and *APEC Forum on Digital Economy for Women 2006: Innovation and Leadership in Asia-Pacific*, 15 December 2006.

I.10 United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE): BPW International attended in Geneva: UNECE 59th Annual session, 24-26 February

2004; 60th Session, 22-25 February 2005; 61st Session, 21-23 February 2006; *Good Governance for Small and Medium-sized Enterprises*, 1-2 April 2004; *Regional Preparatory Meeting for 10 year Review and Appraisal of Beijing Platform for Action*, 14-15 December 2004.

I.11 United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean: BPW International attended in Santiago, Chile: *Commerce, Development and Poverty Conference*, 4 May 2004; *The High-level Panel about Global and Regional Development*, 17 June 2004; *Economic Integration and Social Cohesion lessons learned and perspectives*, 11 November 2004; and *9th Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean* in Mexico City, 10-12 June 2004.

II. Cooperation with United Nations bodies and specialized agencies

II.1 Ten Year Review Beijing Platform for Actions: (Beijing+10) Preparation: A BPW Representative co-authored NGO/CSW Committee in New York's *Ten Years After Beijing: Still More Promises than Progress: 1999-2005 Review and Appraisal of the Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action* as input for NGO Consultation on 27 February 2005 and CSW 49th Session in 28 February-11 March 2005. BPW International's own review "*Beijing+10 Review: Two Steps Forward and One Step Back*", was archived at www.bpw-international.org. BPW members attended NGO Beijing+10 Review for Latin America and the Caribbean Forum in Mexico City, 7-8 June 2004, and Asia-Pacific NGO Forum on Beijing+10 Review in Bangkok, 30 June-3 July 2004 and published *Financial Crisis that Breaks the Glass Ceiling: Advancement of Thai Women Executives in the Private Sector* in the Asia-Pacific NGO Forum Beijing+10 Review booklet.

II.2 NGO/Department of Public Information (NGO/DPI): A BPW Representative was a member of Planning Committee for NGO/DPI Annual Conferences in New York in 2003-2006. BPW International co-organized workshops/panels: *Acting on Human Dignity and Security: From Participatory Theatre to Reality on the World Stage*, 56th NGO/DPI conference, 8-10 September 2003; *MDG 1: Poverty, International Migration and Development*, 57th NGO/DPI Conference, 8-10 September 2004; *Reducing Fear of Strangers/Reducing Strangers' Fears: The Challenges of Providing Services to Migrants and Refugees in a Hostile Environment*, 58th NGO/DPI conference, 7-9 September 2005.

II.3 Migration: A BPW representative was a member of Migration task force which helped prepare High-Level Discussion on Migration in New York, 14-15 September 2006. As a member of Subcommittee on Immigrants and Refugees in 2004-2006, she organized *International Migration and Migrants: Critical Issues in Social Development and Human Well-Being* workshop in parallel to Commission for Social Development 42nd Session, 13 February 2004; co-convened Migration Caucus at CSW 50th session, 27 February-10 March 2006; and co-founded NGO Committee on Migration, October 2006.

II.4 United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO): In 2004, BPW International nominated members for UNESCO's Talent Bank of Women with International Societal Expertise and a report *Monuments on Messengers of Culture of Peace for UNESCO*. UNESCO published BPW activities in its Culture of Peace Newsletter, issue 2, on "Gender and Culture of Peace", December 2004.

II.5 Human Rights: BPW International attended the 59th session of the Commission for Human Rights 17 March-25 April 2003 in Geneva, Switzerland; the 60th session of the Commission 15 March-23 April 2004, the 61st session of the Commission 14 March-22 April 2005, and the 62nd session of the Commission 13 March-21 April 2006; 55th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 28 July-15 August 2003 in Geneva, the 56th session of the Subcommission 26 July-13 August 2004, the 57th session of the subcommission 25 July-12 August 2005, and the 58th session of the subcommission 7-25 August 2006; and the 1st session of the newly installed Human Rights Council 19-30 June 2006 in Geneva, the 2nd session of the Council 18 September-6 October 2006 and 27-29 November 2006, and the 3rd session of the Council 29 November-December 2006.

III. Actions to support Millennium Development Goals

Supports for **Goal 1: Eradicate Extreme Poverty and Hunger** include literacy training for over 3,000 women; skills training for over 4,000 people; and building 30 houses for displaced people. Supports for **Goal 3: Promote Gender Equality and Empower Women** include microcredit for over 6,500 women to start up businesses; career guidance for over 6,000 students; 360 scholarships for nursing students; and helped 540 refugee women to integrate into society. Support for **Goal 8: Develop a Global Partnership for Development** includes educating 299 people on e-Business in partnership with UNESCAP and/or APWINC.

2. International Institute for the Rights of the Child

(Special consultative: 2003)

Part I: Introduction

i. The Institute's activities take as their basis the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child and its two Optional Protocols, as well as the main instruments relating to the protection of those rights. The aims and objectives of the Institute have remained the same since 2003, namely:

- To train individuals responsible for ensuring the exercise of the rights of the child or who work with children in the countries concerned;
- To disseminate relevant information on the rights of the child in general and on the various aspects of those rights;
- To instil a rights-of-the-child-based culture and consciousness.

ii. The Institute's activities, in particular its contribution to the work of the United Nations, its participation in United Nations meetings and its cooperation with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) on training-related matters, have been significantly strengthened with the election, on 23 February 2005, of its Director, Mr. Jean Zermatten, to the Committee on the Rights of the Child.

Part II: Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i. Participation in the work and/or conferences of the United Nations

The Institute has taken part in all the days of general discussion organized by the Committee on the Rights of the Child and held in Geneva, Switzerland, on the third Friday in September:

- 15 September 2006: The right of the child to be heard. Participation; and provision of support to a group of students, who submitted an article. Mr. Jean Zermatten, Director of the Institute, was responsible for preparing the final outcome;
- 16 September 2005: Children without parental care. Mr. Jean Zermatten, Director of the Institute, was the Rapporteur of Working Group 2;
- 17 September 2004: Implementing child rights in early childhood. Participation;
- 18 September 2003: The rights of indigenous children. Participation.

ii. Cooperation with the United Nations and its agencies

As part of its training activities, the Institute has been asked to train professionals working with children from the following countries:

(a) 4 to 11 November 2006: At the request of Penal Reform International and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Institute organized a training course in Sion, Switzerland, for an official delegation of professionals working on the reform of the juvenile justice system in Jordan;

(b) 24 to 28 April 2006: At the request of UNICEF Albania, the Institute hosted, in Sion, an Albanian delegation comprising 13 representatives of official bodies and NGOs, as well as the head of UNICEF Albania, who received basic training on juvenile justice, including a visit to institutions for young offenders;

(c) 29 August to 4 September 2004: At the request of UNICEF Mauritania, a Mauritanian delegation comprising 16 officials responsible for juvenile justice attended a week-long training course, held in Sion, on justice for minors, alternatives to imprisonment and working in networks;

(d) 6 to 10 October 2003: At the request of UNICEF Moldova, a 15-person delegation comprising members of the Moldavian Government, senior State officials, magistrates, prosecutors and police officers attended a training course, held in Sion, on juvenile justice and alternatives to imprisonment;

(e) 9 to 14 December 2003: In collaboration with the United Nations Crime Prevention Division, the Institute hosted, at its headquarters in Sion, a Lebanese delegation, the members of which, in the context of the reform of juvenile justice introduced in Lebanon, wished to visit institutions for young female offenders in Switzerland.

iii. Activities connected with the Millennium Development Goals

- Goal 2: Universal primary education. From 18 to 22 October 2005, the Institute held its 11th international Sion seminar on education. Around 100 participants from around the globe came together to seek ways and means

of achieving universal education; the minutes of the seminar were published and distributed;

- Goal 3: Gender equality. In Switzerland, the Institute is working to combat female genital mutilation and organized an awareness-raising day on 18 May 2006. A documentary entitled *Femmes mutilées plus jamais* was produced by the Institute in February 2007. These activities also relate to goal 4: Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under 5 and goal 5: Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio;

- Goal 6: Reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS and malaria. From 14 to 18 October 2003, the Institute, in conjunction with the François-Xavier Bagnoud Association, held its ninth international Sion seminar on the topic of the fight against HIV/AIDS. Some 60 participants tried to find ways of addressing the issues of HIV/AIDS orphans, awareness-raising and access to drugs that would work in their countries.

Other activities indirectly related to the work of the Council and the United Nations

- 6 November 2003: Creation of the Swiss Network on the Rights of the Child, an association established on the initiative of the Institute that brings together some 50 NGOs in Switzerland;

- Participation by the Institute in the programme of support for the prevention of prostitution and/or trafficking in West Africa and for the social and vocational integration of migrant minors, victims or not of those phenomena, run by the International Social Service (ISS) since December 2002. The Institute has organized a number of training courses for interested professionals and journalists (2006, 2005 and 2003);

- December 2003: Creation of RAFY (Fodé and Yaguine Network for Action), which brings together all the beneficiaries of the Institute's training courses relating to the SSI programme;

- University training: Master of Advanced Studies in Children's Rights (MCR), in collaboration with the University of Fribourg and the Kurt Bösch University Institute in Switzerland, and Diploma in Child Protection and Diploma in Psycho-Legal Assistance for Children and Adolescents, in collaboration with the Universities of Lausanne, Fribourg and Geneva, Switzerland. A seminar, organized in collaboration with the Luxembourg Ministry of the Family and Integration and the Kurt Bösch University Institute, was held in Sion from 17 to 21 July 2006 on the topic "A general culture of child's rights";

- 26 to 27 October 2006: Caracas Seminar (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela). The Institute, through its Director, Mr. Jean Zermatten, gave a presentation on international trends in restorative justice to an audience composed of over 120 judges, around 100 prosecutors, lawyers, social workers specializing in child protection, and academics;

- October 2005: Opening of the Children's Rights Path in Sion, which sets out, for the benefit of a wide audience, 12 rights embodied in the Convention, each illustrated by a different animal;

– In 2000, the Institute launched a website (www.childsrights.org), which disseminates information on the rights of the child in French, English and Spanish and, to a lesser extent, German, Italian and Arabic. On 20 November 2006, the site became available in Chinese.

3. International Kolping Society

(Special consultative: 1991)

Part I. Introduction

The International Kolping Society (IKS) is a Catholic social organization which wants to serve the needs of the members and promote the common good through active participation of its individual members and their groups and to cooperate in the continuous renewal and humanization of society. Fortunately, IKS had a strong growth of new groups and individual members in many parts of the world and has started in new countries especially in Africa, Asia and Central America. Today IKS has more than 550,000 members in more than 60 countries.

Part II. Contribution to the work of the United Nations

i) Vienna NGO Committee on the Family

Since the Year of the Family 1994 IKS has been a member of the Vienna NGO Committee of the family and was designated as International Year of the Family patron. IKS was not only a member in this Vienna NGO Committee but was elected from the beginning also as a board member. In December 2003, the Secretary-General's message of launching the observance of the tenth anniversary of the International Year of the Family in 2004 was very much welcomed, and IKS has started a special worldwide programme under the headline "People need Family — Children need Parents". All national organizations of IKS have started different activities to support families and family members and to advocate for the interests of the families in the political discussion.

In 2004, the representative of IKS on the board was changed from Mrs. Christine Leopold to Mrs. Monika Hummel. The elected Monika Hummel coordinates the databases of the Committee and takes part in the manifold projects of the Committee e.g. Internet forums, the quarterly bulletin "Families International", finances, or contacts to the Commission for Social Development.

The following seminars or forums were organized by the Committee in Vienna, Austria, and IKS has participated in all of them: "Civil Society Organizations Networking", 6 May 2004 to 7 May 2004; "HIV/Aids and Families", 20 December 2004; "Transnational Grassroots Cooperation for Families", 2 May 2005; "Demographic Challenges for Families", 22 May 2005; "Compatibility of Family and Professional Life — Cohesion or Conflict?", 20 November 2006.

ii) Participation in seminars and meetings by our representative in New York, Mr. John Reitter

2003: As a member of the NGO Committee on the Family, IKS has supported a statement which was submitted to the 41st session of the Commission for Social development from 10 to 21 February 2003. In cooperation with other

non-governmental organizations IKS supported different interventions. As one of the over twenty individual organizations constituting the IYF+10 Committee sharing an interest in promotion of family values and strengthening the international pro-family movement, IKS worked for nine months to organize and present the high-level seminar on the family to members of permanent missions, Secretariat staff and representatives of other NGOs. The event was held on 4 December 2003 and marked the Tenth Anniversary of the International Year of the Family.

2004: IKS attended the Prep Com for the High Level Segment of the Economic and Social Council featuring a round table on mobilizing resources for development and poverty eradication and focusing on the deliverables promised in the Brussels Program of Action, 18 March 2004; A seminar sponsored by the IYF+10 Committee, 13 May 2004; A seminar given by Mr. Alfredo Sfeir Younis, formerly of the World Bank, on the topic "Catholic spirituality and global policy", November 2004; Over the course of the year IKS attended briefings on a variety of topics including "Biodiversity for Food security", "Role of Men and Women in Families", "Elimination of Violence against Women", "Global Action in Aging", the "Ottawa Landmine Convention". In addition to this IKS has written statements in opposition to Cloning, in favour of Debt Reduction, and on the use of Micro-Credit in the alleviation of poverty and the creation of employment.

2005: IKS attended the Civil Society Forum and worked with the Chair of the NGO Commission on Social Development, Joan Burke and her team to create the statement that would become the Civil Society Declaration. The Declaration puts poverty reduction, employment and social integration front and centre. Between 9 February and 18 February 2005 IKS attended various segments of the 43rd Session of the Commission on Social Development, and at the end of February the 49th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. IKS attended the ECOSOC Special Event on the topic "Food Crisis in Africa" held in the ECOSOC Chamber at United Nations headquarters on 27 October 2005, and the Panel Discussion: "UN Secretary-General Study of Violence Against Children" in November 2005. Over the course of the year IKS participated in a number of other events which were sponsored by the NGO Committee on the Family. Among them were "Children affected by armed conflicts" and "Violence against children".

2006: On 7 February 2006, IKS participated in the Civil Forum convened by the NGO Committee on Social Development, and contributed to the NGO Declaration "Decade of poverty: Ways forward". This document was read to the Commission on the opening of the 44th Session of the Commission on Social Development. In February and March 2006 IKS attended various segments of the 44th Session of the Commission on Social Development, and various segments of the 50th Session of the Commission on the Status of Women. During this time IKS supported several interventions together with other NGOs. During the year 2006 IKS attended a number of briefings, seminars, panel discussions and workshops sponsored by the Department of Public Information, the NGO Committee on the Family, the NGO Committee on Aging. These meetings were a possibility to exchange grass-roots experience regarding the effective utilization of microcredit, of life skills training, of job creation and education and of promoting hope and self-esteem.

iii) Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Since 1972 IKS has established an organization called SEK under its leadership. This organization supports development projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America, and social projects in the so-called transformation states of Central and Eastern Europe. This organization has collected every year nearly 3 million euros by its members and gets subsidies from the German and the Luxemburg government and the European Commission. Altogether the yearly budget amounts to 7 to 8 million Euros. Since the beginning of the activities of this organization it has started projects to eradicate extreme poverty and hunger. The Millennium Development Goals gave IKS a new incentive to concentrate more of our financial means on this direction. Since 2001 more than 70 per cent of its financial means have been given for projects according to the Millennium Development Goals.

iv) International Year of Microfinance

IKS welcomed very much the decision of the United Nations to declare the year 2005 the International Year of Microfinance. As an organization IKS has experience of more than 150 years with microfinance systems and uses this instrument extensively also in its development cooperation. The organization with the most experience in this direction is Kolping India. Kolping India has organized all of their about 25,000 members in saving groups, and these saving groups are the basis for the whole microfinance systems of Kolping India. Every year nearly 4,000 individuals can start their own small business because of small credits they get out of this system.

IKS took the occasion of the International Year of Microfinance to publish a small booklet on the topic "Microfinance systems in the developing cooperation of IKS". The booklet starts with a preface of Dr. Annette Krauss from the United Nations Capital Development Fund.

This small booklet and seminars in Africa and Latin America encouraged the small existing microfinance systems in Chile, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania and Kenya to grow, and today there is a well-functioning system of microfinance institutions in Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Chile and a beginning of this system in some other Latin American countries and in Kenya and in Benin.

4. Pax Christi International

(Special consultative: 1979)

1. Aims, Purposes and Main Course of Action of Pax Christi International

Pax Christi is committed to non-violence, demilitarization and disarmament, human security, human rights and the rule of law as the basis of peaceful societies. As a movement and a global network, the organization brings together people from many different backgrounds and cultures, to work towards a shared vision of peace, reconciliation and justice for all.

2. Major Organizational Changes

From 2003 to 2006, the membership of Pax Christi International has increased dramatically, from 36 member organization to today's number of 97. Furthermore, the geographic focus of Pax Christi has also shifted, from its core member group of European organization, to organization located primarily in the developing world. Today, approximately 39 per cent of Pax Christi's member organizations are located in Africa, 26 per cent in Europe, 19 per cent in the Asia-Pacific, 10 per cent in the Americas and the Caribbean, and 6 per cent in the Middle East.

3. Participation in the work of the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary bodies and major conferences and other United Nations meetings

Oral and written statements 2003-2006

- 59th session Commission on Human Rights 18 March-25 April, Geneva, Switzerland

Written submissions at on: Peace and Development in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Rwanda; Treatment of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and Immigrants; Religion-Based Violence; Internally Displaced Persons and Civil Peace Initiatives; the Occupied Arab Territories; Conscientious Objection; and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Oral intervention at the 59th session Commission on Human Rights on Religious Intolerance.

- Fifth Session of the Group of Governmental Experts of the States Parties to the Convention on Conventional Weapons (CCW/GGE) 16-27 June 2003 in Geneva. Intervention on Explosive Remnants of War.

- 55th session of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 28 July-15 August, Geneva. Written intervention at the on Israel and Palestine. Oral interventions at the 55th session of the Subcommission on Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on: the Situation in Vieques; the Death Penalty; Children and Iraq; and Religious Discrimination.

- Third Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty Organizations (CTBTO) Conference, 3 to 5 September 2003 in Vienna: Written submission on Facilitating the Entry into Force of the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

- 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights 15 March-23 April, Geneva Switzerland. Written submissions at the on: Peace and Reconciliation in the Great Lakes; Palestinian Citizens in Israel; Freedom of Expression; Informal Economy and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Fight Against Terrorism. Oral interventions at the 60th session of the Commission on Human Rights on: Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; Religious Freedom.

- 56th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights 26 July-13 August, 2004, Geneva. Written submission on Northern Uganda. Oral interventions at the 56th session of the Subcommission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights on: Abolition of the Death Penalty; The Toxic Legacy of Military Activities of the United States of America in Puerto Rico and the Philippines; Discrimination of Religious Minorities; the Lack of Security and Widespread Violations of Fundamental Freedoms of the People of Iraq.

- 10 year review of the implementation of the Copenhagen Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome of the 24th Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly: Commission for Social Development, 9 to 18 February 2005 in New York. Written submission on HIV/AIDS Orphans.
- 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights 14 March-22 April 2005. Written submissions on: Fundamental Freedoms in West Papua; Integration of Women and the Gender Perspective. Oral interventions at the 61st session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights on: Death Penalty; Freedom of Religion and Belief.
- Meeting Ad hoc Group of Experts of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention Geneva, 13 to 24 June 2005. Oral intervention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on their Destruction.
- 62nd session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 13-27 March 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. Written submissions on: Operation Murambatsvina in Zimbabwe; Right to Education. Oral and written statement at the final session of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, 27 March 2006.
- First Session of the Human Rights Council 19-30 June 2006, Geneva Switzerland.
- 58th session of the Subcommission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, 7-25 August 2006, Geneva, Switzerland. Written submission on the war in Lebanon, Israel and Gaza.
- CCW Review Conference, 7 to 17 November 2006 in Geneva. Switzerland.

4. Organization of parallel NGO meetings

Pax Christi International continued as an active participant in the NGO Committee on Disarmament Peace and Security, the AIDS Committee, the Indigenous Forum, International Coalition for the Decade of the Culture of Peace and Non-Violence, Conscientious Objection and the Values Caucus. Members of the International Secretariat as well as delegates of the movement in New York attended NGO meetings on the International Criminal Court. Representatives attended sessions of the Special Committee of NGOs on Human Rights at the United Nations in Geneva. During the United Nations Commission for Human Rights, Pax Christi International was present at parallel sessions. On 6 April 2005, the World Council of Churches convened a meeting of ecumenical partners, including Pax Christi International, to address the question of the reform of the United Nations Commission for Human Rights. The representative of Pax Christi International at the United Nations in Vienna is a member of the NGO Committee on Peace. On 2 June 2004, the Committee held a meeting with the President of the fifty-eighth United Nations General Assembly, Mr Julian R. Hunte, Foreign Minister of Saint Lucia. A joint statement was made on that occasion. Pax Christi issued an Open Letter, "Pax Christi International Calls for Ethical Approach to Biological Weapons" as part of its lobbying activities to States party to the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention on the occasion of their meeting from 6 to 10 December 2004 in Geneva. On 8 March 2005, Pax Christi organized a meeting on cluster munitions during the Tenth Session of CCW/GGE, 7-11 March in Geneva, Switzerland.

5. Participation in International Days

During the reporting period the following United Nations commemorative days were observed by Pax Christi: International Women's Day, 8 March; International Day of Reflection on the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda, 27 April; International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, 26 June; International Day of Peace, 21 September; International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women, 25 November; International Human Rights Day, 10 December.

6. Activities and Advocacy in Support of Global Principles

In March 2003, Pax Christi International submitted letters of concern to the United Nations Secretary-General, aiming to prevent the war in Iraq. On 28 March 2003, a delegate of Pax Christi met with the United Nations Secretary-General to discuss the war in Iraq. On 1 April 2003, Pax Christi International in cooperation with the NGO Committee on Peace at the United Nations in Vienna, appealed to the United Nations for a Special Session on Iraq. Letters were sent to the Presidents of the Security Council and the General Assembly, as well as to the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to request the immediate convening of an "emergency special session" of the United Nations General Assembly according to the procedures given in General Assembly resolution 377 A (V) section A, paragraph 1.

In response to escalating violence in the Great Lakes region, participants of Pax Christi's Regional Consultation sent a letter on 15 May 2003 to the Secretary-General of the United Nations. In it they urged more decisive United Nations action in Ituri, in the eastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. On 17 July 2003, in a letter addressed to the Secretary General, Pax Christi International called for an extension of these operations to avoid further humanitarian catastrophes and to build towards a lasting peace in the region.

Pax Christi International was represented at the First Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects at the National, Regional and Global Levels, which took place at the United Nations Headquarters, from 7 to 11 July 2003.

Pax Christi International awarded Sergio Vieira de Mello, in his role as United Nations civil servant, the "Pax Christi International Peace Award 2004". The ceremony took place in New Jersey, United States of America, May 2004. A 55-person Pax Christi delegation held a series of meetings with communities centred on the United Nations, including the Office of the United Nations Secretary-General, in May 2004.

On 9 June 2004, Pax Christi International issued a statement: "Protect people in Darfur!" In a related letter, the International Secretariat urged the Secretary-General of the United Nations, to give immediate assistance to protect the people of Darfur. A coalition of 43 NGOs, including Pax Christi International, approached the High Commissioner for Human Rights, Ms. Louise Arbour, about the situation in Darfur. A copy of the letter, 23 May 2006, was also sent to all 47 new members of the Human Rights Council.

5. Rural Women Environmental Protection Association

(Special consultative: 1999)

Part I

Rural Women Environmental Protection Association (RWEPA) is a people-centred organization working towards the promotion of environment friendly farming methods, promotion of the education of marginalized communities especially the Fulani girl child, empowerment of the rural woman through the encouragement of income generating activities, and best health practices.

Africa, as the continent with the oldest human habitation and tremendous diversity of both cultures and biological diversity, is naturally rich in traditional knowledge practices and innovations. African knowledge systems are linked to a spectrum of economic and cultural systems, ranging from hunting and gathering, to pastoralist, to traditional agriculture, to commercial agriculture and service economies in urban areas.

There is the traditional argument that health will automatically improve as a result of economic growth. Rather, the opposite seems to be true. Improved health is critical to economic development in poor countries. Partnerships struck between the rich and poor countries could offer the "gift of life itself to millions of the worlds" needy and prove to all doubters that globalization can indeed work to the benefit of humankind.

Apart from networking with national and international NGOs, RWEPA has extended its partnership arrangements with an American based NGO, Play Soccer Cameroon, which has the same line of action towards youths and underprivileged children from ages 5-15.

Part II

i) – Representative attended the NGO/Civil Society Forum Prep to World Summit on the Information Society(WSIS) in Tunis, Tunisia, from 16-18 November 2005.

– The General Coordinator of RWEPA attended a training session organized by the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) in December 2004 in Arusha, United Republic of Tanzania.

– The General Coordinator participated in the conference on Multilateral Agreements and Compliance international conference organized by UNEP and the Ministry of Environment of Cameroon in Yaoundé in March 2006. RWEPA was the secretary of the caucus group.

– The Secretary General of RWEPA attended a regional conference on the Protection of the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, organized by ILO Sub-Regional Office for Central Africa and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in Cameroon in April 2005 at the ILO head office in Yaoundé. The RWEPA representative was the facilitator of this workshop.

– The General Coordinator of RWEPA participated in the Central African subregional zone workshop to train the indigenous peoples (Pygmies and the Bororos) on their rights to their cultural heritage and beliefs, organized by both

ILO Geneva and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva, in Hotel Azur, Cameroon in November 2004.

ii) – RWEPA lacked the necessary funding support to enable its representatives take active part at the international meetings, and sometimes too we had difficulties obtaining the necessary entry visas especially in the case of access to the United Nations meetings in New York. Difficult access to information was another serious impediment to our timely application to participate in meetings and conferences.

Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals:

– Africa in general, and Cameroon in particular, there have been changes which are creating new opportunities for partnerships between the State and its citizens to protect and promote traditional knowledge and its application to the monitoring and protection of biological diversity. The General Coordinator of RWEPA participated fully in the elaboration of Law No. 2003/006 of 21 April 2003 laying down safety regulations governing modern biotechnology in Cameroon. In this light,

– RWEPA organized two seminars in 2004 and 2005, for 23 traditional rulers of the Moghamo Area in Momo Division, and 75 Ardos in Sabga. The objective was to sensitize them on the rules and regulations governing biotechnology in Cameroon, since they are like the custodians of the native laws and customs of the people. These seminar participants have been sensitizing their subjects to practice safe farming methods, thereby protecting the environment and biological diversity.

– RWEPA has been working in partnership with an American based Not for Profit Organization — Play Soccer Cameroon — to promote Literary, numeric and health skills within children of underprivileged communities of two provinces, i.e., the North-west and Central Provinces of Cameroon. This is a project that started in March 2006 and is continuing till date with about 1270 children of ages 5-15 years.

RWEPA is working towards the realization of the following goals that fall within the framework of realizing the Millennium Development Goals:

– Promotion of environment friendly farming methods, thereby reducing poverty and promoting sustainable development by **the Ndop Rice Farmers Association (NRFA)** A subgroup of RWEPA) that has a membership of 70 very conscientious farmers living within the Ndop Plain of Ngoketungia Division of the North-west Province of Cameroon.

They supply the rice to UNVDA at the cost of 12,500 francs a bag and UNVDA sells to the public at 13,500 francs per bag. The harvest is always increasing since the group joined RWEPA Network and is always having enough funding to buy fertilizer for their rice fields. They used it and came out with a harvest of 1000 bags of rice in 2006. This gave them a total annual income of 12,500,000 francs. They have paid back the loan they took and share equally among the 70 members of the group 1/2 of the yearly income, and the rest to RWEPA for the smooth running of the organization.

These farmers use the money from the group to mostly educate their children and clothe themselves. They also use some to pay for medical services provided to the cattle by veterinary nurses to fight against diseases. There is usually the left over

from the harvest that is used by the farmers for home consumption. This brings about socio-economic development to the people of this area.

- Promotion of the education of children from marginalized communities especially the Fulani girl child, children with special educational needs, e.g., children who are emotionally depressed, those that are abandoned etc. This is realized through training of parents on the various methods of identifying these children and teachers handling these children the different techniques of managing them in the class.

- Empowerment of the rural woman through the encouragement of income-generating activities, and best health practices e.g., The Widikum Ambele Women Oil Farmers Association (WAWOFA) Project in Widikum village — WAWOFA — subgroup of RWEPA.

In 1999, this plantation produced five hundred tins (500) of good palm oil. In the year 2006, 3000 tins of palm oil were produced and sold at ten thousand five hundred francs (10,000 frs) per tin. This gave them thirty million francs (30,000,000 frs) from sales of palm oil. The other by-products such as, shells, kernels and chaffs are sold to people who own soap industries. The demand is very high. This year WAWOFA sold palm kernels and the shells for five million francs (5,000,000 frs).

The total income from the harvest in a year is shared into three parts:

- 1/3 is banked in RWEPA's account for the running of the subgroup and RWEPA at the national and international levels i.e., participation at training sessions and once in a while international conferences when it becomes absolutely necessary.

- 1/3 is kept aside for the cost of running the plantation (those men and young boys that harvest the nuts and once a year clear the plantation are paid for).

- 1/3 is shared among the fifty (50) members. Most of them use the money to send their children to school and sometimes buy zinc (roofing sheets) to roof their houses instead of living under thatched roofs that leak seriously whenever it rains.

In fact, the example of WAWOFA subgroup of RWEPA is worth emulating, if most of the civil society can be able to come together as a group and work towards a common goal. Most of the group's meeting forums are used as sensitization forums against the spread of HIV/AIDS/STDs. They are given lectures on how they can practise safe sex, and reduce the rate of infection by the HIV/AIDS pandemic.

- RWEPA organized a training on leadership skills for 60 women from 20 subgroups of RWEPA from all over Cameroon in April, 2005. These were subgroup presidents, secretary generals, and treasurers of their groups.

- In the domain of improvement of grass-root women and capacity-building (women and desertification action plan for Africa), the general coordinator and the secretary general of RWEPA have had working sessions with all the 20 subgroups of RWEPA sensitizing the women on the negative impacts of desertification on the environment and there is already a change in behaviour and mentalities of the rural communities of Cameroon.

- RWEPA youth groups organize every summer cultural weeks during which sensitization on issues relating to children's rights and dignity are carried out.